

Congressman Bill Thomas

22nd District, California

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Tuesday, November 23, 2004 CONTACT: Tim Wood (202) 225-2915

Rios Caledonia Adobe to Receive \$200,000 in Federal Funding

Congressman Bill Thomas announced that the Rios Caledonia Adobe will benefit from \$200,000 in a federal spending bill approved by the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate last Saturday. The funds were included at Thomas' request in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2005.

San Luis Obispo County Department of Parks plans to use the funds, in conjunction with state and private funding, to renovate and seismically retrofit the more than 150-year old building which is located near Mission San Miguel. The funding will come from the U.S. Department of the Interior's Save America's Treasures program.

"The history of Rios Caledonia Adobe began even before California became part of the United States, and its preservation is important to provide an understanding of the area's past," said Thomas. "Aside from the Adobe's historical significance, it is my hope that its renovation will help further the County's efforts to increase tourism."

The Rios Caledonia Adobe, which is on the National Register of Historic Places, was built in the 1840's. It was operated as a hotel for about 20 years, and later served as a private residence, hotel, dress-making and tailor shop, mattress-making and upholstery shop, post office, and schoolhouse.

The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2005 will now be sent to President Bush for his signature.

###

For additional information you may contact Pete Jenny, Director of San Luis Obispo County Parks, at (805) 781-5204.